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that it has already been made use of in Chamberlin and Salisbury's text-book of geology, in discussing continental and oceanic segments. If it is applicable to major elements why not to minor ones as well? The parts cut off by a fault or included between faults might be called fault segments and the terms upthrow segment, downthrow segment, overthrust segment and underthrust segment would be convenient and would obviate such expressions as "the area adjacent to the fault on the upthrow side" and others which are equally unsatisfactory. Other usages of the term would follow naturally. The Colorado plateau may be cited, as an example of segmentation by faulting.

After writing the above I read the "Report on the Investigation of the Geologic Structure of the Alps," by Willis<sup>1</sup> and found the following usages of the term segment:

Each of these minor scarps is the western face of a segment of the range. . . .

It is an example of major and minor thrusting with two somewhat divergent directions of displacement and with diversities of folding in the several segments.

These are the only quotations which I can cite, but there are no doubt others which may occur to the reader. The fact that geologic text-books and glossaries do not include or define the term segment is no reason against its being used, since they follow usage rather than establish it.

GEO. I. ADAMS

IS THE "ACADEMIC COSTUME" WORTH WHILE?

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Early in October last I accompanied my wife to the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of Mt. Holyoke College, where she graduated in 1873. I was deeply and favorably impressed with the comprehensiveness and significance of the program and with the executive ability manifested by those—chiefly women—charged with its fulfilment.

Of the several functions, however, I wit-

nessed but one, and that only in part. The "Intercollegiate Commemoration Exercises" began with a procession of some score presidents and delegated professors arrayed in full "academic costume." The sentiments aroused by it banished all desire to remain. (The following discourses, however, were admirably reported and were read afterward with interest and enlightenment.)

At Cornell University, some years ago, as a member of a committee on the subject, I cooperated in preventing the adoption of an arbitrary requirement; when, nevertheless, parti-colored ceremonial garments were worn by most of my colleagues, I excused myself from commencement exercises; hence I was quite unprepared for the gorgeous spectacle at Mt. Holyoke.

I tried to comprehend how mature, modest, civilized and learned persons could don garments indicating, on the one hand, an assumption of superiority and, on the other, a childish delight in bright colors and startling combinations (one was so "loud" that it seemed doubtful if the wearer could make himself heard). Nor could I refrain from speculating as to how far the addition of feathers and paint might complete the barbaric *ensemble*, arouse more keenly the curiosity of the uninitiated, and more effectually dazzle the eyes of groundlings.

Since then there have been sent me colored plates of the various academic costumes according to British and American usages, some courteous letters and offers of fuller information, and a pamphlet entitled "The International Bureau of Academic Costume, Albany, N. Y., July 27, 1902." To those interested I commend the paragraphs in that publication at the middle of page 5 and near the top of page 11. Candid and careful consideration of the claims there made confirms the opinion formed when the subject was first broached, viz., excepting, perhaps, the plain gown for the first degree, obviating social distinctions, the so-called "academic costume" is ostentatious, needless, childish or barbaric, and inappropriately expensive; its rapid and general

<sup>1</sup> Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 56, No. 31, 1912.

adoption, so far from evidencing its intrinsic value and probable permanence, exemplifies the survival of simian proclivities in the human race, and swells the category of peculiar "college customs" which, like the Indian of the traditional cowboy, are good only after they are dead.

It may be urged that educators constitute a "standing army" in conflict with ignorance. But there is no real analogy between their duties and those of soldiers, firemen and police.<sup>1</sup> Farmers combat the hunger of the community; physicians, disease; lawyers, misapprehension, injustice and crime; clergymen, the ape, bull and tiger in man; and all good citizens are in constant warfare with the undesirable elements of society; but these groups do not proclaim themselves by needless, conspicuous and costly Pharisaic habiliments.

According to the official pamphlet named above the prices of the "hooded gown" for the master's degree range from \$35 to \$85; those for the doctorate, \$10 more. For some classes such an outlay for garments to be worn upon comparatively infrequent occasions might not be excessive. But, until recently, most college professors, excepting such as had independent means or no families, were pleading with reason and commonly in vain for compensation that might enable them to provide for a less productive period of life. Now that the specter of retirement-penury has been exorcised by the bounty of Andrew Carnegie is it any the more becoming in his beneficiaries to indulge in a costly revival of medieval flummery?<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>It is not denied that occasions might arise when uniforms indicative of ordained pedagogic authority might prove useful in quelling disorder and averting destruction of property as, *e. g.*, at the recently reported *ante factum* football demonstration in the dining hall of a great university; the writer believes, however, that in all such cases a well-disciplined and fully supported fire department would act more appropriately and effectively.

<sup>2</sup>A somewhat comparable condition confronts former officers of the United States Volunteer Army in respect to membership in the "Military Order of the Loyal Legion." The initiation fee

The foregoing considerations are submitted in the hope that reflection upon them may lead some, especially among the younger scientists, to resist the temptation to "follow the fashion." They would better imitate the elder Agassiz; he received many foreign decorations; yet I never saw them displayed or witnessed in his demeanor or dress any feature suggesting a distinction between himself and the average American citizen.

BURT G. WILDER,

*Emeritus professor in Cornell University, and formerly surgeon of the Fifty-fifth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry*

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

November 25, 1912

THE LATE DR. EDWIN TAUSCH

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Permit me to call attention to a sad case of the widow and children of a man eminent in science—a case well worthy of charitable help from those who are able or disposed to give. Dr. Edwin Tausch, a young German, graduate in psychology from one of the German universities, was professor in Ohio University at Athens, and afterwards because of failing health, accepted the chair of psychology and philosophy in Willamette University, Salem, Oregon, but was obliged to give up this work on account of heart troubles, and finally during the past is \$35 and the annual dues for residents, \$12. Unlike retired officers of the regular army volunteer officers (unless more or less disabled by wounds or disease) receive from the government only a moderate pension proportionate to their age and length of service. Even this is of real help to many. Probably others besides the writer feel that the essential requirements and objects of the "Loyal Legion," viz., a modest badge, clerical service, and aid to the needy, might be provided for at a far less initial and yearly expenditure, and that conformity to the present scale is burdensome for many and unbecoming the beneficiaries of the nation. I resist the temptation to animadvert upon the showy, complex and cumbersome dress uniform and equipment of army officers as incongruous with the ideal of the professional soldier as a component of an efficient fighting machine.